[26th November 1948

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Does the hon. Member suggest that it is the educated ladies who are seeking divorce now? "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" This Bill, if it is accepted, Sir, will retard the growth of higher education among ladies."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Does it mean that if the Bill is passed, only divorce will take place and not marriage? "

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I do not say that no marriages will take place. They may take place, but not at the proper age. These educated ladies will not be able to get suitable husbands. By the time girls come out of the colleges they will be aged between 22 and 25 and most of the boys would have already been married and they will find no equal match for them to marry or they will find only men younger than themselves to marry. That is the difficulty we are experiencing in our society. Therefore as a matter of fact the girls will only have to be married to a man as a second wife. I know more than a dozen cases in Madras. I know of one case where a lady doctor married a gentleman who has already got five or six children and she is maintaining the whole family and the family is going on amicably. Another lady, a doctor, married an advocate in Madras and the advocate has got already more than six children. Like these I can quote many instances."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The point is that you say that the men must be allowed to marry a second time."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Suppose a girl refuses to marry a man who has already a wife there is no question of this Act at all and no question of second marriage will arise. So, Sir, I entirely oppose the second part of the Bill, namely with regard to divorce and request that at least for some time, until the Rao Committee clears up the whole matter these things may be deferred."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The discussion on the Bill will be continued on the next non-official day. The House will now adjourn to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m."

The House then adjourned.

IV.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* *The Madras Hindu Bigamous Marriages (Prohibition and Divorce) Bill*, 1947 *as passed by the Assembly and received therefrom in the Council.*

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* Circulated to the Members of the Legislative Council on 10th September 1948.